

“CONVERSIONS”

1 Tim 1:15

New Pastors facing pioneering ups/downs/trying to get people to come to church. Was in Perth – reminded of the foundation of ministry is conversions. Paul says this is the foundation of all Christianity.

I. THE GREAT NEED FOR CONVERSIONS

A. The foundations of Discipleship:

1. Example 2. Impartation 3. Real involvement in ministry 4. Holy Ghost dimension

B. One of the greatest areas we must see this is in the area of conversions

1. You must see people get saved!

a. You must personally participate in seeing conversions

2. This will completely determine your viewpoint/approach/confidence in ministry

a. *This is why we don't recommend that very small churches plant churches – the disciples have not seen conversions*

C. There must be an absolute confidence in God's ability to save

1. You will face obstacles of spiritual climate/past history of the church -city/culture

2. You will face frustrations of people who don't respond or people who don't change

3. Men who don't do well are those who don't believe that God saves

a. They change their expectation/rearrange their theology to accommodate no salvations/conversions

1. That's the way it is here/seasons

b. Or they settle for people attending without being converted

1. *Footscray: They didn't get it/they didn't get saved/no evidence of conversion; Not acceptable!*

II. THE FOUNDATION OF CONVERSION

A. The foundation of conversion is seeing who God is: Our God is a savior!

1. One of the repeated names of God: Savior

a. *Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I gave Egypt for your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in your place.*

1. OT: To be wide open/be free/rescue/help 2. NT: To deliver/bring out of danger

2. God's history with His people was saving them: Bringing out of Egypt/saving from enemies

3. Jesus: People were saved/transformed

a. *Matthew - tax collector/Simon Zealot – terrorist/Mary Magdalene – delivered/Demoniac of Gadarenes/Samaritan woman*

B. Paul says this is a foundational truth of Christianity: God saves sinners

1. *1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*

- a. Important for all – but if you didn't come out of gross sin you have to see/know that God saves

III. FIGHTING FOR CONVERSIONS

1. Who is the worst sinner you know? (Must live in Prescott area)

2. Why are they the worst?

3. Why do you think their salvation would make impact on others?

Let's target them/ask God to save them

a. *2 Kings 5:3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.*

1. *V3 would to God...a prayer; She was speaking to God on Naaman's behalf*

a. Intercede/stand between: OT root word – violent meeting/to war; Fight for someone!

1. *Abraham for Lot: Oh God – don't let him be destroyed*